

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(8)

TO: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: October 21, 2014

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida
Legislature to ban the sale of
ivory within the State of Florida

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Dennis C. Moss and Co-Sponsor Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/cp



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(Revised)

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Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☐ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- ☒ No committee review
- ☐ Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____) to approve
- ☐ Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A) (8)
10-21-14

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO
BAN THE SALE OF IVORY WITHIN THE STATE OF
FLORIDA

WHEREAS, with an estimated value of between \$10 billion and \$20 billion per year, the illegal wildlife trade is a major transnational crime run by professional criminal networks and is strongly linked to other transnational organized criminal activities, including trafficking in narcotics, weapons and humans; and

WHEREAS, there is significant evidence that illegal trade in high-value wildlife parts, including elephant ivory, is being used as a source of financing for criminal organizations and armed groups that pose a threat to the United States' economic and security interests in Africa and elsewhere, including the Lord's Resistance Army, Sudanese militias and other groups with potential terrorist ties; and

WHEREAS, illegal trade in elephant ivory is the most significant threat to Africa's elephant populations and is driving the mass slaughter of elephants, especially across Central and Eastern Africa; and

WHEREAS, approximately 35,000 African elephants were poached in 2012 alone and Central Africa's forest elephant populations have declined by 75 percent in the last decade, including significant elephant losses inside protected areas; and

WHEREAS, the leaders of 11 African nations took the stage at the 2013 Clinton Global Initiative annual meeting and asked the world to stand with them in support of an ivory moratorium; and

WHEREAS, the United States is one of the largest markets in the world for ivory sales, and because current laws allow for the legal trade in certain ivory products and include broad loopholes and exemptions, there is significant illegal trade in ivory in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the United States Government recently released the National Strategy to Address Wildlife Trafficking, part of which aims to strengthen the existing federal ban on the ivory trade – a major first step in strengthening domestic enforcement of the illegal ivory trade; and

WHEREAS, each individual state of the United States can help conserve remaining wild elephant populations and act as a conservation model for other states, the federal government and other major ivory consuming countries, by instituting a moratorium on ivory trade, and calling on other states and countries to do the same; and

WHEREAS, several states are considering enacting bans on the importation of ivory, and New York and New Jersey have recently passed legislation banning the importation and possession of ivory into those respective states, with certain exceptions,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

Section 1. Urges the Florida Legislature to adopt legislation banning the sale of ivory within the State of Florida.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, and the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate the passage of legislation accomplishing the goals set forth herein, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2015 state legislative package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Dennis C. Moss and the Co-Sponsor is Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa. It was offered by

Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Rebeca Sosa, Chairwoman
Lynda Bell, Vice Chair

Bruno A. Barreiro
Jose "Pepe" Diaz
Sally A. Heyman
Jean Monestime
Sen. Javier D. Souto
Juan C. Zapata

Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.
Audrey M. Edmonson
Barbara J. Jordan
Dennis C. Moss
Xavier L. Suarez

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 21st day of October, 2014. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

Jorge Martinez-Esteve